



## Virginia Green Lodging Profile:



### The National Conference Center Lansdowne, Virginia

**Virginia Green** is the Commonwealth of Virginia's campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. **Virginia Green** has established "core activities" specific to each sector of tourism, and these practices are considered the required minimum for participation in the program. However, **Virginia Green** encourages its participants to reduce their environmental impacts in all aspects of their operations; and this profile provides a full list of all their "green" activities. These are the activities that guests / customers can expect to find when they visit this facility.

#### The National Conference Center

"The National Conference Center offers the ultimate learning environment for residential training and productive meetings. Located near Leesburg on 110 wooded acres in the Potomac River Valley, the campus-like backdrop creates a fully distraction-free setting. As the nation's largest, marketed, residential training center, The National Conference Center features 917 newly renovated guest rooms and more than 250 meeting rooms for group of 10 to 1,800 including the National Ballroom, northern Virginia's largest.

With the addition of The National Ballroom, The National Conference Center offers exceptional catering facilities through its banquet division; West Belmont Place. From the professional experience of the catering team to the creative depth of the Chef and his staff, West Belmont Place helps you create memorable events and is ideal for Fundraising Galas, awards banquets, holiday parties and weddings."

**Green Statement:** "The National Conference Center decided to "go green" in order to be better stewards of our environment. In so doing our goal is to reduce, reuse, and recycle everything and anything we can in order to minimize our environmental impact. The conference center also strives to decrease our carbon footprint by conserving energy, water, and other utilities wherever possible. Overall our goal is to provide our guests, clients, and community with the best standards of service possible while protecting the environment."



#### CORE ACTIVITIES for Conference Centers

☑ This symbol indicates a required activity for Virginia Green Conference Centers. Participants self-certify that these activities are in place and they provide additional specifics on other activities. Visitors to The National Conference Center can expect the following practices:

☑ **Recycling and Waste Reduction.** All conference centers must provide for recycling at their events. Aluminum can and plastic bottle recycling are a must. Recycling of steel cans, cardboard, office paper, and composting of waste foods are encouraged as well. This facility pledges that they:

- Recycle: glass, aluminum cans, steel cans, grease, plastic, office paper, toner cartridges, newspaper, cardboard, packing supplies, fluorescent lamps, batteries, electronic equipment
- Track overall waste bills

*kitchen (or meetings/events)*

- Donate excess food from events - We only donate perishable items when we are shutting down for an extended period of time. Most of our excess food is cooked so to prevent spoilage we pulp leftovers, and eventually will compost them.
- Compost food waste and other compostables (planned starting in 2009)
- Have an effective food inventory control to minimize waste
- Purchase locally grown produce and other foods
- Purchase organic and/or "sustainably-grown" foods

*dining room (or meetings/events)*

- Use reusable dishware and glassware & minimize use of disposables
- Use non-bleached napkins and coffee filters
- Provide condiments, cream and sugar, etc. in bulk (where feasible)
- Use water pitches and filtered water to minimize the use of single-use bottles. We also have water coolers available for meeting spaces as well as looking into a bottle less water system in meeting rooms.
- Purchase recycled-content paper-towels and toilet paper

*office/purchasing*

- Use a last-in/first-out inventory & effective labeling systems
- Encourage suppliers to minimize packaging and other waste materials
- Purchase from vendors and service providers with a commitment to the environment
- Make 2-sided copies / printed materials
- Use electronic correspondence and forms

*building and grounds*

- Using "green" Cleaners ([www.greenseal.org](http://www.greenseal.org)) that are dispensed in bulk. In Housekeeping & Custodial we use H2Orange2
- Purchase durable equipment and furniture
- Use latex paints that are
- Properly recycle and/or disposal of thinners and solvents (required by EPA-RCRA)
- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles
- Use less toxic materials
- Use "integrated pest management" (IPM)
- Minimize use of pesticides and herbicides in landscaping

☒ **Styrofoam elimination and reduction of disposables.** Virginia Green Conference centers are encouraged to eliminate or minimize the use of Styrofoam-based products and to use alternative disposables that are made of natural products and/or are bio-degradable. This facility pledges that they:

- Use disposable containers that are:
  - Made from bio-based materials
  - Made from recycled content paper
  - Compostable

☒ **Water Conservation.** The facility must have a plan for conserving water that should consider plumbing modifications and landscaping. This facility pledges that they:

- Track overall water usage and wastewater
- Have a numeric goal to reduce water consumption over time
- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Have:
  - high efficiency dishwashers
  - low flow restrictors on faucets and showerheads
  - low flow toilets
- Discourage water-based cleanup (sweeping first) and use microfiber technology mops
- Have an effective landscape management plan which utilize drought tolerant species, metering and rain gauges, and minimizes lawn areas
- Maintain vegetative buffers around streams and ponds

☒ **Energy Conservation.** The facility must have a plan in place that encourages replacement of lighting and equipment to energy-efficient alternatives. This facility pledges that they:

- Track overall energy bills
- Use:
  - compact fluorescent light bulbs in all rooms and in canned lighting (currently being replaced)
  - high efficiency fluorescent ballasts and lamps (T5s and T8s)
- Have high efficiency heating & air conditioning (HVAC) system in the newly constructed ballroom
- Perform preventative maintenance on HVAC system
- Have individual thermostats for each room/area
- Use natural lighting
- Use lighting sensors to turn on/off lights
- Purchase EnergyStar-rated computers, copiers, and appliances
- Use directional (downward-facing) lighting in parking areas and other outdoor areas

☒ **Green Events Package.** Virginia Green conference centers must offer a “green” or “environmentally-friendly” package for conferences, meetings and other events. Even if the facility only offers occasional, small events, at least recycling will be provided. This facility pledges that they:

- Promote the availability of “green meetings/conferences” in marketing packages

☒ **Other.** Virginia Green conference centers must offer a “green” or “environmentally-friendly” package for conferences, meetings and other events. Even if the facility only offers occasional, small events, at least recycling will be provided. This facility pledges that they:

- We have optional linen and towel service in each guest room to reduce the amount of energy/water/chemical usage in our laundry. Housekeepers are trained well on process.
- During slow periods of business we shut down entire towers/buildings in order to shut off power and conserve energy.
- National recognized with a Silver certificate by Green Seal <http://www.greenseal.org/>
- Participate in Earth Day with having an all managers gathering and working on cleaning up our property. Working throughout our land to pick up trash and clean up the area as much as possible.



---

For more information on The National Conference Center, see [www.conferececenter.com](http://www.conferececenter.com) or contact **Christopher Young** at [cyounge@conferencecenter.com](mailto:cyounge@conferencecenter.com) or **703-724-5909**.

For more information on the *Virginia Green* program, see [www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/viriniagreen/homepage.html](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/viriniagreen/homepage.html) or go to [www.viriniagreentravel.org](http://www.viriniagreentravel.org).



*Virginia Green* is the Commonwealth's campaign to encourage environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. *Virginia Green* is supported through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

